



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

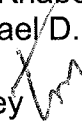
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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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CHIEF DEPUTY

November 6, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CHILDREN'S
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES, INCORPORATED – RHO, ALPHA,
BETA, CHI, GAMMA, OMEGA, SIGMA, ETA, THETA, KAPPA AND
DELTA GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Rho, Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Omega, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa, and Delta Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Children's Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Rho, Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Omega, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa, and Delta Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Rho Group Home was providing services for one Probation child, one Riverside County child, three San Bernardino County children and one San Diego County child.

Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa, and Delta Group Homes were not providing services for any Los Angeles County children. These Group Homes were providing services for children of other counties such as, San Bernardino, San Diego, etc.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Scope of Review

The purpose of the Rho Group Home review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and an interview with the one Los Angeles County child placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the child is designed to obtain his perspective on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Additionally, since the other Group Homes are not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at this time, the monitoring review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes only a facility inspection.

Summary of Findings

Rho Group Home is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Alpha, Beta, Chi, Gamma, Sigma, Eta, Theta, Kappa and Delta Group Homes do not have any facility and environment or safety deficiencies noted. A corrective action plan is not necessary at this time.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC: jh

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Donald Bosis, Executive Director, Children's Therapeutic Communities, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Children's Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated
Rho Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336403782
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Rho Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement. The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: One

Comments:

The child is informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. The child reports that he feels safe in the Group Home and is provided with appropriate staff supervision. The child expresses satisfaction with the quality of his interactions with staff and reports that the staff treats him with respect and dignity.

The child reports that he is assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. The child is allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. The child attends religious services of his choice.

The child reports that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The child reports satisfaction with meals and snacks.

The child receives voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: One

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

Children's Therapeutic Communities, Incorporated

Alpha Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 330907893
Rate Classification Level: 12

Beta Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 330908272
Rate Classification Level: 12

Chi Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 330908755
Rate Classification Level: 12

Gamma Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 330908482
Rate Classification Level: 12

Omega Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 330908983
Rate Classification Level: 12

Sigma Group Home
Perris, California 92370
License Number: 330908868
Rate Classification Level: 12

Eta Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336403976
Rate Classification Level: 12

Theta Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336405675
Rate Classification Level: 12

Kappa Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336405813
Rate Classification Level: 12

Delta Group Home
Riverside, California 92504
License Number: 336409132
Rate Classification Level: 12

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

The Group Homes are each located in a residential community. The exterior of each Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of each Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Homes. The Group Homes provide a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms in each Group Home are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in

good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

Each Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

Each Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.